

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MELBOU 00833 01 OF 02 300124Z

73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 EB-07 SY-05 /083 W

----- 120012

R 270650Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2827

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MELBOURNE 0833

CINCPAC FOR POLAD/PARIS FOR USEC/BRUSSELS FOR OECD

STATE PASS USIA

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PINS, AS, ASEC, EGEN

SUBJ: CONSUL GENERAL'S TALK TO STUDENT UNION BROKEN UP BY MAOIST  
DEMONSTRATORS

1. AFTER A NUMBER OF INVITATIONS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS FROM  
THE ELECTED STUDENT UNION COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE,  
CONSUL GENERAL BRAND, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE CONSULATE  
STAFF AND WITH ACADEMIC CONTACTS AT THE THREE MAJOR UNIVERSITIES  
IN MELBOURNE, ACCEPTED THEIR INVITATION TO ADDRESS A GROUP  
OF 30 OR 40 STUDENTS AT DINNER. THE DINNER WAS TO BE HELD IN  
THE SMALL, PRIVATE DINING ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE  
STUDENT UNION BUILDING. THE TOPIC OF THE DISCUSSION WAS TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MELBOU 00833 01 OF 02 300124Z

HAVE BEEN WORLD ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE, STRESSING THE

IMPORTANCE OF THE IMF, GATT, OECD AND IEA IN WORLD PLANNING FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. APPROX 40 TICKETS WERE SOLD BY THE STUDENT UNION COUNCIL FOR A\$2 EACH.

2. THE DAY OF THE DINNER, JUNE 26, WE WERE INFORMED THAT A NUMBER OF HANDBILLS HAD APPEARED ON THE LATROBE AND MONASH CAMPUSES URGING "ALL ANTI-IMPERIALISTS" TO COME TO A DEMONSTRATION AT THE MELBOURNE STUDENT UNION AGAINST "THIS ENEMY OF THE AUSTRALIA PEOPLE." OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS AT ALL THREE UNIVERSITIES, WITH THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER, AND WITH SECURITY CONTACTS RESULTED IN THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION THAT A FEW DEMONSTRATORS MIGHT ASSEMBLE TO HECKLE, BUT THAT THE DINNER DISCUSSION SHOULD GO ON AS PLANNED. ALTHOUGH ONE ASIO CONTACT HAD ADVISED US TO CANCEL WE DECIDED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS SHOWING A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE STUDENT UNION LEADERS AND WOULD BE GREATLY RESENTED BY THE MODERATE STUDENTS WHO HAD PAID FOR THE DINNER.

3. WHEN THE CONSUL GENERAL AND BRANCH PAO ARRIVED AT THE UNIVERSITY THEY WERE MET BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STUDENT UNION COUNCIL WHO DIRECTED THEM TO THE PARKING LOT. THE STUDENT UNION HAD ARRANGED FOR TWO FATHERLY SECURITY OFFICERS IN SUIT AND TIE, ONE TO ACCOMPANY THE VISITORS AND THE STUDENT UNION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PARKING LOT TO THE DINNER, AND ONE TO COLLECT TICKETS AT THE DOOR. WHEN THE VISITORS AND THEIR ESCORT ARRIVED ON THE PLAZA IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE DINNER WAS TO BE HELD A GROUP OF APPROX 20 STUDENTS WITH PLACARDS WERE LOUNGING AROUND. AS THE CONSUL GENERAL ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE BUILDING HE WAS CONFRONTED BY A HUSKY BEARDED MAN IN HIS MIDDLE TWENTIES WHO THREW A BROOM HANDLE IN FRONT OF THE CONSUL GENERAL AND SAID "YOU'RE NOT GOING IN, BRAND." A PUSHING MATCH ENSUED BETWEEN THE STUDENT UNION COUNCIL ESCORT, THE SECURITY GUARD AND THE DEMONSTRATORS, DURING WHICH THE CONSUL GENERAL, BPAO, AND STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER ENTERED THE BUILDING AND WENT UP THE STAIRS TO THE DINING ROOM. AS THEY CLIMBED THE STAIRS THE WINDOWS IN FRONT OF THEM WERE BROKEN BY STONES THROWN FROM THE PLAZA BELOW.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MELBOU 00833 01 OF 02 300124Z

4. DURING THE NEXT HALF HOUR THE CONSUL GENERAL AND BPAO EXCHANGED PLEASANTRIES WITH A GROUP OF 10 OR 12 STUDENT TICKET HOLDERS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ASSEMBLED IN THE DINING ROOM. THE CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED FROM TIME TO TIME BY CHANTS FO "YANKEE GO HOME" ETC. FROM THE SMALL GROUP OUTSIDE THE BUILDING AND BY STONES BEING THROWN THROUGH THE VICTORIAN GOTHIC WINDOWS OF THE DINING ROOM THE WINDOWS WERE HEAVILY DRAPED AND THERE WAS NO

DANGER TO THE GROUP. THE DOORS TO THE LOBBY OF THE DINING ROOM AND FROM THE LOBBY TO THE STAIRS WERE LOCKED, ALTHOUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED TO ENTER AND LEAVE THE AREA THROUGH THE KITCHEN ENTRANCE. DURING THIS PERIOD THE DEMONSTRATORS ALSO DISRUPTED ANOTHER DINNER BEING HELD ELSEWHERE IN THE UNION BUILDING.

5. DURING THIS BARRAGE PERIOD WE WERE INFORMED THAT A STUDENT UNION COUNCIL MEMBER HAD CALLED THE POLICE, BUT NO POLICE REACHED THE AREA WHILE WE WERE THERE, MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF THE STUDENT AND CATERERS. WE LEARNED TODAY FROM THE VICTORIAN POLICE THAT THE POLICE ARRIVED AT THE CAMPUS BUT WERE TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUEST FOR THEIR PRESENCE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR, AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT ENTER THE CAMPUS WITHOUT SUCH A REQUEST.

6. AT APPROX 7:45 PM THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNION AND THE ACTIVITIES OFFICER DECIDED THAT THINGS HAD QUIETED DOWN SUFFICIENTLY THAT THE DINNER COULD BE HELD, AND THOSE STUDENTS WITH TICKETS WERE ADMITTED TO THE HALL. NOT ALL OF THE STUDENTS WERE FRIENDLY BUT THE GROUP WAS CIVIL AND SAT DOWN TO DINNER. THE ACTIVITIES OFFICER INTRODUCED THE CONSUL GENERAL AND THEN A YOUNG MAN AT THE TABLE ROSE AND STARTED TO MAKE A SPEECH ABOUT ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM. WHILE THIS YOUNG MAN WAS TALKING THE GROUP OUTSIDE GOT INTO THE BUILDING AND UP THE STAIRS AND BROKE DOWN THE DOOR FROM THE STAIRS TO THE LOBBY. WHEN THEY STARTED BREAKING DOWN THE LOCKED DOOR TO THE DINING ROOM ITSELF, THE STUDENT UNION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES THEN DECIDED THAT THERE WAS NO SENSE IN CONTINUING, AND THE CONSUL GENERAL, THE BPAO AND SEVERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS LEFT THE DINING ROOM AREA THROUGH THE KITCHEN. WE WAITED FOR A FEW MINUTES IN ONE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE STUDENT UNION WHILE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT RETURNED TO THE DINING ROOM TO ASSESS THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MELBOU 00833 01 OF 02 300124Z

SITUATION. HE LATER INFORMED US THAT THE GROUP IN THE DINING ROOM THEN BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS IN A DISCUSSION ABOUT FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS TO HEAR WHOMEVER THEY WANTED. THERE WERE APPARENTLY A NUMBER OF SPOKESMEN FOR ALL SIDES AND THE DISCUSSION EVIDENTLY CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MELBOU 00833 02 OF 02 300132Z

73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 EB-07 SY-05 /083 W

----- 120027

R 270650Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2828

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MELBOURNE 0833

CINCPAC FOR POLAD/PARIS FOR USEC/BRUSSELS FOR OECD

STATE PASS USIA

7. AFTER A FEW MINUTES THE CONSUL GENERAL AND PARTY LEFT THE UNION BUILDING BY THE REAR EXIT AND WENT IN A STUDENT'S CAR TO A NEARBY RESTURANT FOR DINNER. FROM THERE, THE STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT TELEPHONED THE UNION REPRESENTATIVE BACK AT THE STUDENT DINING ROOM AND THE VICE CHANNELLOR AT THIS HOME. THE DECISION WAS MADE TO ALLOW THE DISCUSSION GROUP IN THE DINING ROOM TO RUN ITS COURSE WITHOUT INTERVENTION BY THE POLICE. THE STUDENT UNION COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAD ORIGINALLY ORGANIZED THE DINNER WERE TOLD WHERE THE CONSUL GENERAL WAS DINING AND ABOUT A DOZEN STUDENTS THEN JOINED HIM AT THE RESTURANT FOR SEVERAL HOURS OF LIVELY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, RADICAL GROUPS, ETC.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MELBOU 00833 02 OF 02 300132Z

8. THE STORY WAS PICKED UP BY THE MEDIA FIRST IN THE 10:00 PM RADIO NEWS AND BY MIDNIGHT THE STORY WHICH FINALLY APPEARED IN THE PAPERS WAS IN GENERAL CIRCULATION. THE BPAO RESPONDED

TO CALLS FROM THE WIRE SERVICES AND THE ABC, AND THE CONSUL GENERAL GAVE STATEMENTS TO THE MAJOR MORNING NEWSPAPERS. EARLY MORNING STATEMENTS WERE ALSO GIVEN TO THE MAJOR RADIO STATIONS AT THEIR REQUEST FOR THIS MORNING'S NEWS. ALL STATEMENTS STRESSED THAT THE CONSUL GENERAL WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT A DISCUSSION OF SO IMPORTANT A SUBJECT AS WORLD ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELD ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND THAT THE LARGE GROUP OF MODERATE STUDENTS HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM HAVING A FREE AND FAIR DISCUSSION BY A HANDFUL OF EXTREMISTS. ALL FURTHER REQUESTS FOR STATEMENTS WERE REFUSED AFTER 8:00 AM WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE ACCOUNTS IN THE MEDIA WERE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE, THAT IT IS A MATTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO SORT OUT, AND THAT WHILE THE CONSUL GENERAL WAS DISAPPOINTED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE THE DINNER AND DISCUSSION ON THE CAMPUS THE ISSUE IS ONE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

9. THE REACTION TO THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLE TO US. WE HAVE BEEN DELUGED WITH TELEPHONE CALLS OF SUPPORT FROM A GREAT CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY. THE ACTIVITIES OFFICER OF THE UNIVERSITY CALLED TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE DISCUSSION COULD NOT BE HELD AND SAID THAT THE STUDENTS WERE QUITE UPSET THAT THE DISRUPTERS WERE PRIMARILY NOT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BUT THE ORGANIZED "FLYING SQUAD" FROM LATROBE AND MONASH. THIS COMMENT WAS ALSO FEATURED IN THIS AFTERNOON'S PAPERS (JUNE 27).

10. THE RADICAL SPOKESMEN HAVE ATTEMPTED TO GET MAXIMUM MEDIA EXPOSURE BY STATING THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE DEMONSTRATION WAS TO PREVENT THE TALK, TO RALLY SUPPORT "AGAINST ALL AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA" AND A "WARM-UP FOR THE 4TH OF JULY."  
BRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, EXTREMISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MELBOU00833  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750225-0621  
**From:** MELBOURNE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750610/aaaaaihv.tel  
**Line Count:** 256  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONSUL GENERAL'S TALK TO STUDENT UNION BROKEN UP BY MAOIST DEMONSTRATORS  
**TAGS:** EGEN, ASEC, AS, US  
**To:** STATE CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006